

May Have Been Nation's Oldest Voter

Mrs. Matilda Ford Dies At Age 108

DR 4/7/1980

HACKETTSTOWN — Mrs. Matilda Raymond Ford, believed to have been the oldest voter in the nation during the 1976 presidential elections, died Friday at the House of the Good Shepherd here. She was 108. **DIED 4/4**

Mrs. Ford lived in Hackettstown when she cast an absentee ballot for Gerald Ford (no relation). She was a lifelong Republican.

In 1976, on her 104th birthday, Mrs. Ford said she had no special formula for having lived so long.

Born Matilda Raymond in Staten Island in 1872, she married the late Charles M. Ford in 1898. The couple lived in New York and Massachusetts before moving to New Jersey in 1919.

After her husband's death in 1930, she lived with her daughter, Mrs. Frances Greenidge, in Chester and Chatham. She moved to the Good Shepherd home 12 years ago.

Mrs. Ford was very active in Episcopal church work, and until her 104th birthday had made handcrafted articles that were sold at church women's



Mrs. Matilda Ford in 1976.

exchanges and at the Elder Craftsman Shop, New York City.

Mrs. Ford enjoyed reminiscing about life in New York City before the turn of the century and remembered the Centennial

celebration of 1876 well.

She shopped at the original Macy's on 14th Street when shopgirls wore blue smocks embroidered with a red Macy's star, and recalled the New York

Times during that era proudly advertised they carried no pictures on their front page.

She kept scrapbooks on the English royal family, beginning with Queen Victoria. Needlework and reading were among her other hobbies.

She was a member of the altar guilds of several churches, and a member of the Girl's Friendly Society since 1888. She also was a member of the National Board of the Episcopal Church for many years and an honorary life member of the Episcopal Church Board.

In addition to her daughter, she is survived by a son, Col. Raymond O. Ford (Ret.), Short Hills; three grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Services will be held 11 a.m. Wednesday at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Chatham. Memorial services will be held 10:30 a.m. Thursday at the House of Good Shepherd.

Arrangements are by William A. Bradley & Son Funeral Home, Chatham.

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OBITUARY:
Matilda Raymond Ford
Date of death,
April 4, 1980